



MEDICAL STAFF DIGEST

A twice-weekly update for medical staff

January 21, 2021

Sections

COVID-19.....	1
Overdose prevention and response	4
Other organizational news.....	4

Expressions of interest wanted: Medical Lead – Primary and Community Care

Northern Health would like to invite eligible physicians to indicate their interest in the following position: Medical Lead – Primary and Community Care, 0.40 FTE

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form with a current resume by **February 11, 2021**. For full details, see this [document](#).

COVID-19

NH's COVID-19 resources

- On the NH physician website:
 - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- On OurNH:
 - [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)
 - [Pandemic Recovery Toolkit](#)

COVID-19 case counts and statements

As of January 20, **2,978** cases have been reported in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic.

- Cases currently active: **501**
- New cases: **35**
- Currently in hospital: **39**
 - Currently in ICU level care in hospital: **17**
- Deaths in the NH region since the beginning of the pandemic: **54**

For the latest provincial numbers, see the [BC COVID-19 dashboard](#), which is updated Monday-Friday. The dashboard may not work in all browsers; Chrome is suggested. Situation reports, including a breakdown of cases by HSDA, are [posted each Friday by the BCCDC](#).

- [Joint statement on Province of B.C.'s COVID-19 response](#) – January 20, 2021
- [BCCDC Situation Report](#) – January 15, 2021

Stay informed with Northern Health's new vaccine information page

Northern Health's new [vaccine information page](#) will be updated weekly with information on:

- Community vaccine schedules
- Clinics that have been held to date
- Immunization numbers to date

Even with the COVID-19 vaccines, we still need to follow all the [orders and guidelines for public health and safety](#). This will help keep us all safe.

More information:

- For immunization numbers, see "Vaccine supply and administered" on [provincial dashboard](#) (works best in Chrome).
- See details on vaccine distribution: [BCCDC: BC's plan for vaccine distribution](#).
- Follow Northern Health on social media, where we share the most up-to-date information on vaccine clinics, outbreaks, new provincial orders, and more:
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - Spread the good news! Like and share this Facebook post, which provides general info on COVID-19 vaccines throughout the North: [COVID-19 vaccine arrives in Prince George](#)
- For local vaccine information for your community, check out the [Northern Health Facebook community groups](#).

Ministry of Health releases updated visitor guidelines for long-term care and assisted living

On January 7, the Ministry of Health updated their [guidance document](#) on visitor changes in long-term care and assisted living, based on the Office of the Seniors Advocate recommendations.

As you will see in the guidance document, the visitor restrictions remain largely in place. Changes to highlight include:

1. Requirement for visitors to wear a medical mask in alignment with the masking policy;
2. Confirmation that visits are allowed in individual single occupancy rooms;
3. Visits do not need to be monitored (sites are still required to provide oversight and monitoring for pre-screening, screening on arrival, providing information on IPC for the visit, and to ensure visitors go directly to the resident they are visiting and exit the facility directly after their visit);

4. Appendix offering detailed interpretive guidance for essential and social visits as well as a visitor appeal and review process for essential and social visits.

As part of the implementation of the additional measures to allow social visits, homes will be engaging with residents and their families on the proposed next steps that will now include the processes for visitors.

Northern Health is working to put the new practices into place. Social visits are still limited to a single designated visitor per resident. Long-term care home and assisted living staff will support switching to a new single designated visitor under extenuating circumstances such as where the single designated visitor falls ill or moves.

Northern Health Virtual Clinic: Data on patient visits

The Northern Health Virtual Clinic supports after-hours access to COVID-19 and primary care services for those who cannot easily access these services in their communities. The goal is to connect people to their local primary care home wherever possible. We will share Virtual Clinic data with you twice a week.

Monday, Jan 18

- 260 nursing assessments
- 21 primary care provider appointments (6 primary care from Prince George, Quesnel, and Terrace, and 15 COVID-19 related)

Tuesday, Jan 19

- 215 nursing assessments
- 27 primary care provider appointments (8 primary care from Prince George, Fort St. John, and Kitimat, and 19 COVID-19 related)

Wednesday, Jan 20

- 183 nursing assessments
- 20 primary care provider appointments (3 primary care from Prince George, Fort St. James, and Bear Lake, and 17 COVID-19 related)

Trusted links and resources for COVID-19

- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [HealthLink BC COVID-19 page](#)
- [WHO FAQ](#)
- [Health Canada FAQ](#)
- [COVID-19 content in other languages](#)
- WorkSafe BC - [COVID-19 information and resources](#)
- Northern Health COVID-19 Online Clinic & Information Line: **1-844-645-7811**
- Northern Health Environmental Health Officer Line: **1-250-565-7322**
- **Non-medical info:** call **1-888-COVID19 / 1-888-268-4319** 7 days, 7:30 am - 8 pm

For current information on restrictions on travel, gatherings and other issues, see the [Provincial Health Officer's COVID-19 webpage](#).

Overdose prevention and response

NH re-issuing Benzos drug alert

Northern Health is re-issuing a drug alert for contamination of street drugs with benzodiazepines (benzos). **There is risk of overdose and prolonged sedation that may not respond to naloxone.**

Please share this alert broadly with the goal to reach those who may be affected:

- [Benzos Drug Alert January 18](#)

Information sheet: Do I Keep Giving Naloxone?

The toxic drug supply is making opioid overdoses look different, especially when they don't respond to naloxone quickly. Focus on the person's breathing, not whether they are awake. See the info sheet for more details:

- [Do I Keep Giving Naloxone? \(Toward the Heart\)](#)

Other organizational news

Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace: Factor Three

In September, we shared how Northern Health is including the Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace standard into our organization. This standard includes 13 workplace factors of psychological health and safety, and we will be sharing one per month over the next 13 months. The third factor is **Clear Leadership and Expectations**; more information on this factor is available on [OurNH](#).

Wellness and more

- Resources for wellness are available on the [Health and Wellness page](#) of the Physicians Website. For more information on [staff deals](#), the [NH Community Corner](#), and [RAARs](#), visit [OurNH](#).